(c) what specific proposals relating to sick public sector units were discussed there and what was the outcome thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (c) No, Sir. What was stated was "We are also engaged in a major reform of public sector enterprises. The planned restructuring will improve the efficiency of these enterprises. Units which are patently unviable will need to be closed down. Social Safety nets will be developed to ensure that the costs of adjustments are not borne disproportionately by the workers". No specific proposals relating to sick public sector units were however discussed.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of New Cooperative Banks in Bombay

*280. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received representation for opening of new Cooperative Banks in Bombay City;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that existing Nationalised Banks and Cooperative Banks are given permission to open new branches but new cooperative Banks are not allowed to be formed; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that between the years 1986 and 1991, one proposal was received by them for organisation of a new Mahila Bank in Bombay which was acceded to. It has further been reported that a representation was received in respect of a proposal of 1984 for the opening of a new bank which was not agreed to by RBI.

(c) and (d) Organisation of new urban cooperative banks is permitted on a need based and selective basis from districts which do not have adequate banking facilities. Further, subject to satisfaction of the prescribed norms proposals for organisation of a Mahila Bank in a district and those eminating from areas having pre-dominant concentration of weaker sections are considered sympathetically. Extension of urban banking facilities in the areas which are considered adequately banked is sought to be achieved by RBI through branch expansion programme of the existing banks. The object underlying this approach is to ensure continued viability of existing cooperative banks and to create avenues for their sustained and healthy growth.

Earning of Foreign Exchange through Granite Export

1743. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI S. MADHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that granite export are on the threshold of a big jump;

(b) the quantity of granite exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years, yearwise;